

## **Definition of Subtraction**

**For all real numbers  $a$  &  $b$ :**

**In symbols:**

$$a - b = a + (-b)$$

**In words:**

the number  **$a$**  minus a number  **$b$**  is equal to  
 **$a$**  plus the opposite of  $b$ .

## **Rules**

1. The first number remains the same.
2. Change the minus “-” sign to a plus “+” sign.
3. Take the opposite of the second number.